

## PRESENT DAY CHAMPIONS SHOW THEMSELVES TO BE A SORRY LOT

**V. Treanor's**  
**COLTIN**

**GERMANY'S BEST**  
**BILLIARD PLAYER**  
**ARRIVES IN TOWN**

Champion Erik Hagenlacher  
Learned Much of the Game  
From Poensgen.

Wilson's Run-Out of Greb  
Match Illustration of Calibre  
of Modern Title Holders.

THE run out of Johnny Wilson on last match with Harry Greb is just more testimony to the fact that present day champions, collectively speaking, are the most indifferent and disinterested of all in pugilistic annals. Few of them will defend their titles, no matter what the public thinks. Some profess to have good reasons for not doing so but for the most part these reasons are childish. From Johnny Buff, the flyweight, down the line to the middleweight class, the title holders have shown themselves a sorry lot. Too bad there isn't some authoritative body to cleanse the game of the whole bunch of them.

Buff announces he is going to England without a contract signed in advance and for no particular purpose or match in view. If he wished to deliberately duck legitimate challengers here, any one of whom might lick him, he couldn't have made better plans. Buff also holds the bantam title, so his trip ties up competition in two classes.

Benny Leonard, the lightweight champion, lead and shoulders above anybody in his class, positively refuses to meet anybody with Tex Rickard as the promoter, despite the fact that Rickard's place, the Garden, offers every inducement for the proper staging of a championship contest. Leonard's logical opponent in such a match is Lou Tenders of Philadelphia, but for personal reasons Leonard says that Tenders will never get a chance at the title. The public is thus deprived of the chance to see a championship genuinely decided.

The welterweight champion, Jack Britton, is in dry dock so Rickard, waiting to get a match with lightweight Leonard. His manager has gone on record as saying that Britton won't fight anybody until he has been extremely tired in the whole matter. Almost as nice a situation as that which furnished by stand of Leonard. And now comes Wilson.

FROM Wilson's own statement, or rather that of his manager, there can be gleaned only one reason for his not wanting to fight Greb, and that, though we hate to think so, borders on cowardice. Perhaps we had better let the reader draw his own conclusion from the letter we have just received from Marty Killilea, Wilson's manager, explaining the champion's position. It is as follows:

"On Dec. 10 I called on Tex Rickard at his office in Madison Square Garden to try to secure the \$35,000 that was rightfully the Johnny Wilson's prize for his bout with Bryan Downey on Labor Day, said money being unlawfully held by Mr. Rickard. I pointed out to him that I had been extremely tired in the whole matter by not bringing the case to court or by embarrassing him in any way. I also told Mr. Rickard that nearly every paper in the country stated that Wilson was entitled to his money and that an injustice was being done in keeping it from him. Rickard told me that Wilson would never receive one cent unless I signed a contract to fight Harry Greb. This I refused to do, stating that as the money rightfully belonged to Wilson, I didn't think that Wilson should be forced to fight a light heavyweight a man the papers had been writing up as a logical opponent for Jack Dempsey, in order to secure it. I suggested Mike Gibbons as the man entitled to the money for the championship. Our meeting ended without anything being accomplished.

"On the following Tuesday I again met Mr. Rickard. He asked me if I had made up my mind to let Wilson fight Greb. I asked, 'Is that the only way I can get my money?' He told me it was, and I then signed Wilson to fight Greb.

"All that Wilson and I ask in fair play and a square deal that we haven't received from Mr. Rickard. Is it legal for Rickard to hold up Wilson's money for three months and then force me to sign Wilson to fight Greb, a light heavyweight, in order to obtain it? If no, it is legal for me to refuse to allow Wilson to fight Greb under these conditions. I am sending Tex Rickard a letter informing him that the Wilson-Greb match will not take place.

"Sincerely yours,  
"MARTY KILLILEA."

Erik Hagenlacher, the German billiard champion, who is credited with a run of 755 at 15.3 balling, has arrived here. He was born in Stuttgart July 25, 1895, and is a well built individual, standing about 5 feet 11 inches, of erect carriage, with well balanced features and large, penetrating eyes. Hagenlacher has played billiards about eight years—four in Stuttgart while attending Gymnasium College and four in Berlin, where he became a professional. His cue weighs twenty ounces. In both Stuttgart and Berlin he learned much from Poensgen, the German who played in an international amateur tournament held here in 1919.

Ralph Greenleaf, world's pocket billiard champion, now leads Arthur Woods, 129 to 310, in their series of matches, which will come to a close with today's afternoon and evening sessions at King's Strand Academy. Greenleaf must make 720 points while his opponent is scoring 600. The champion won in the afternoon by a score of 129 to 63, but lost in the evening, 129 to 101. Both men were in fine form in the evening. Greenleaf's best cue ball was 39 and Woods of 36 and 14. In the afternoon Greenleaf's best cue ball was 17, Woods leading him in this respect with a 21.

Herbert Morris and C. Schneider were the winners in the continuation of the Manhattan pocket billiard championship tournament at the Morningside Academy last night. The final game will be played tonight between Morris and Schneider. Neither of these players has been defeated and a hard fight is expected before the championship is finally decided.

The annual handicap three-cushion billiard tournament at the Murray Hill Hotel yesterday with nine contestants in such a match is a very interesting round-robin affair and will continue for several weeks. Five matches were played in the morning. Two of these were won by George Richards, who defeated E. J. Donley and J. Lee by the same score, 10 to 9. Donley broke even on the day's play, winning from Augustus Dorian, 25 to 13. Dorian defeated Leo Hoffman, 30 to 14.

Robert Campbell, former three-cushion billiard champion, and Ray Palmer, formerly of Michigan, but now a resident of New York, will play a match in exhibition at the National Recreation Academy today. Two blocks of 80 balls each will be played to-day, to-morrow and Friday.

## Big Skating Meet At Lake Placid Carded Feb. 9-11

LAKE PLACID, Jan. 4.—Details of arrangements for the Lake Placid Diamond Trophy Championship, the new fixture for amateur skaters, which was sanctioned at the annual meeting of the International Skating Union at Lake Placid, N. Y., Dec. 10, were announced here today. The meet is scheduled to take place on the ice at Lake Placid, following the United States National and International and the Canadian Amateur Outdoor Speed Skating Championships. The details of this event have not yet been announced.

The Lake Placid Silver Cup competition, another amateur championship event, will be held on the ice at Lake Placid. The details of this event have not yet been announced.

## SPECIAL COACH NOW FOR HARVARD ATHLETES.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Jan. 4.—Harvard, reverting to its pre-war custom, will have a special track coach this Spring for the freshman squad. Head coach Bill Bingham, announced today that James Bingham, who resigned the Varsity captaincy to enter law school, would assume charge of the youngsters upon completion of his present duties as coach of Varsity basketball. Coach Bingham expects more than 200 first year men to turn out in the Spring for track activities.

Western Union Games. Entry blanks are out for the non-sterile athletic carnival of the Western Union Games, which will be held at the 22d Regiment Armory. The special attractions for the all-star programme will be the boxing contest between the Schist Trophy. A class field team has been formed and a record-breaking performance is expected.

limit for Wilson, although it is generally believed that in doing this he weighed, 160 pounds, he might be weakened. If Wilson is to run out on his contender who can't fight, he complies with the rules of his division which kind of a champion must be regarded by the sporting public?

When Rickard held out his right to hold up the \$35,000 due Wilson for his fight with Downey in Jersey City last Labor Day is out of the question. Wilson finally collected the money on his word that he would fight Greb on a date to be selected by Rickard, and he has failed to keep that word. No wonder the State Athletic Board has ordered the indefinite suspension. It couldn't do anything else. Wilson possibly figures that an enforced idleness is preferable to a licking by Greb and the loss of his title.

## PAGES FROM THE NEW YEAR'S BOOK

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